IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An electronic circuit comprising an amplifier stage ~~(AMPST)~~ having an input ~~(IP)~~ for receiving an input signal ~~(I_i)~~ and an output ~~(OP)~~ for supplying an output signal ~~(I_o)~~, wherein, during operation, the strength of the output signal ~~(I_o)~~ increases in response to an increasing strength of the input signal ~~(I_i)~~ as long as the strength of the input signal ~~(I_i)~~ has not exceeded an input reference level ~~(I_A)~~, characterized in that the strength of the output signal ~~(I_o)~~ is kept approximately constant when the strength of the input signal ~~(I_i)~~ has exceeded the input reference level ~~(I_A)~~ but has not exceeded a further input reference level ~~(I_B)~~, and that the strength of the output signal ~~(I_o)~~ decreases in response to an increasing strength of the input signal ~~(I_i)~~ when the strength of the input signal ~~(I_i)~~ has exceeded the further input reference level ~~(I_B)~~, characterized in that the strength of the output signal cannot become lower than an output reference level when the strength of the input signal has exceeded the further input reference level.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The electronic circuit ~~according to~~ as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the further input

reference level ~~(I_B)~~ is approximately equal to the input reference level ~~(I_A)~~.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The electronic circuit ~~according to~~as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the input signal ~~(I_i)~~ is an input current ~~(I_i)~~, and the output signal ~~(I_o)~~ is an output current ~~(I_o)~~.

5. (Currently Amended) An electronic circuit~~according to claim 4~~ comprising an amplifier stage having an input for receiving an input signal and an output for supplying an output signal, wherein, during operation, the strength of the output signal increases in response to an increasing strength of the input signal as long as the strength of the input signal has not exceeded an input reference level, characterized in that the strength of the output signal is kept approximately constant when the strength of the input signal has exceeded the input reference level but has not exceeded a further input reference level, and that the strength of the output signal decreases in response to an increasing strength of the input signal when the strength of the input signal has exceeded the further input reference level, wherein the input signal is an input current, and the output signal is an output current, characterized in that the amplifier stage ~~(AMPST)~~ comprises a first current path ~~(CP_1)~~ coupled between the input ~~(IP)~~ and a common node ~~(cn)~~; a second current path ~~(CP_2)~~ coupled between

the output ~~(OP)~~ and the common node ~~(cn)~~; first control means ~~(FCM)~~ coupled between the input ~~(IP)~~ and the common node ~~(cn)~~ for controlling a voltage ~~(V_{cn})~~ at the common node ~~(cn)~~ and for supplying a current ~~(I2)~~ to the common node ~~(cn)~~, the first control means ~~(FCM)~~ comprising limiting means ~~(LMT)~~ for limiting the current ~~(I_2)~~ to the common node ~~(cn)~~ when the strength of the input signal ~~(I_i)~~ has exceeded the input reference level ~~(I_A)~~; and second control means ~~(SCM)~~ for supplying a compensation current ~~(I_{cmp})~~ to the input ~~(IP)~~ when the strength of the input signal ~~(I_i)~~ has exceeded the input reference level ~~(I_A)~~.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The electronic circuit ~~according to~~as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that the amplifier stage ~~(AMPST)~~ further comprises a third current path ~~(CP_3)~~ having a first side coupled to the input ~~(IP)~~ and a second side coupled to the second current path ~~(CP_2)~~ for taking away current from the second current path ~~(CP_2)~~, such that the strength of the output current ~~(I_o)~~ decreases in response to an increasing strength of the input signal ~~(I_i)~~ when the strength of the input signal ~~(I_i)~~ has exceeded the further input reference level ~~(I_B)~~.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The electronic circuit ~~according to~~as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that the amplifier stage ~~(AMPST)~~ further comprises a fourth current path ~~(CP_4)~~ coupled to

the second current path ~~(CP$_2$)~~ for supplying current to the second current path ~~(CP$_2$)~~ in order to avoid that the output current ~~(I_o)~~ can be lower than the output reference level ~~(Io_{min})~~ when the strength of the input signal ~~(I_i)~~ has exceeded the further input reference level ~~(I_B)~~.

8. (Currently Amended) An optical/magneto-optical disk recording apparatus comprising a light source ~~(LS)~~ for storing data on a disk ~~(DSK)~~, and light-receiving means ~~(PHDS)~~ for the detection of data from the disk ~~(DSK)~~, characterized in that the apparatus comprises an electronic circuit ~~as defined in claim 1~~ comprising an amplifier stage having an input for receiving an input signal and an output for supplying an output signal, wherein, during operation, the strength of the output signal increases in response to an increasing strength of the input signal as long as the strength of the input signal has not exceeded an input reference level, characterized in that the strength of the output signal is kept approximately constant when the strength of the input signal has exceeded the input reference level but has not exceeded a further input reference level, and that the strength of the output signal decreases in response to an increasing strength of the input signal when the strength of the input signal has exceeded the further input reference level, wherein the input signal ~~(I_i)~~ of the amplifier stage ~~(AMPST)~~ is responsive to a signal ~~(A; B; C; D)~~ delivered by the light-receiving means ~~(PHDS)~~.

9. (Currently Amended) A method whereby an input signal ~~(I_i)~~ is converted into an output signal ~~(I_o)~~, and whereby the strength of the output signal ~~(I_o)~~ increases in response to an increasing strength of the input signal ~~(I_i)~~ as long as the strength of the input signal ~~(I_i)~~ does not exceed an input reference level ~~(I_A)~~, and whereby the strength of the output signal ~~(I_o)~~ is kept approximately constant when the strength of the input signal ~~(I_i)~~ exceeds the input reference level ~~(I_A)~~ but does not exceed a further input reference level ~~(I_B)~~, and whereby the strength of the output signal ~~(I_o)~~ decreases in response to an increasing strength of the input signal ~~(I_i)~~ when the strength of the input signal ~~(I_i)~~ exceeds the further input reference level ~~(I_B)~~, characterized in that the strength of the output signal does not become lower than an output reference level when the strength of the input signal exceeds the further input reference level.

10. (Cancelled).